

Wonder of Waterways

Unit Overview



The Theme

Water is a precious resource. Humans, plants and wildlife need it to survive. This unit is about learning where water comes from, how it's used and how to look after it sustainably.

You may find that some activities suit the site you are visiting more than others.

** Activities with a star have a detailed lesson plan page.*

Getting Started

How Much do we Use? - Estimate and investigate water usage in the home, school or by the class.

*** Where Does Our Water Go?** - What do we use water for? See the sponge activity.

*** How Does Water Become Polluted?** There are many things that can contribute to water pollution, this water jug activity illustrates some of them.

Why is Water Precious? - Have the children trace around their hand - in each of the 5 fingers write a reason why water is precious.

Produce a TV Programme - Make a video with the children about why water is precious.

Wonder Cards, Wonder Table - children fill in "I wonder..." cards about the location to be visited. These can be placed on a table alongside objects that are relevant to the site. This can be added-to as the unit progresses.

What Animal is That? - Investigate native animals that rely on freshwater habitats everyday.

About Your Animal - the class is divided into three groups, each is assigned an animal relating to the fresh water environment they are studying (eg. platypus, frog, anaspedes, water rat). What can they find out about their animal? Have them each contribute towards a poster about their animal.

Make a Headband - Design a 'logo' of your animal and print onto material to make a headband to be worn during the field trip.

Site Activities

Parks and Wildlife Service Education Rangers are often available to conduct these and other activities at an excursion site. Please contact the Parks and Wildlife Service Interpretation and Education Section via email on parkseducation@parks.tas.gov.au.

*** Sensory Walk** - this consists of several activities that can be undertaken as part of a walk or separately.

*** Water Bug Testing**

Habitats - Can you find a spot where you think your animal would live?

Where Is The Water From? - Is there a lake that feeds the river? How is the lake area different from the river?



Visit the Visitors Centre - If there is a visitor's centre with an interpretation section, spend some time in there.

Photo Opportunity - Take photos of what the children discover to use back in the classroom.

Follow-up Activities

*** Map Your Walk** - Do a drawing that maps out your walk - show where you went and what you did and saw.

Compare Locations - If two contrasting locations were visited produce a venn diagram that shows how they were different and the same.

Create a Concept Map - Let the children draw or write what they know about the river/creek/lake and how these things are linked.

Create Banners - On calico create a screen printing or painting with fabric paint to illustrate the things that were observed.

Make A Model - As a group sequence the pictures you took of the creek/river, lake or waterfall. Which come first and why? Construct a model of each of these using materials such as a basin, pipes, tubes, water trough, sand, twigs, clay. Place the photos next to the models.

*** Drama Activities:** Brainstorm what you have learned about your animal; move like your animal. How would your animal interact with the other animals? Interview each animal.

Display at the Park - Liaise with the Parks and Wildlife Service staff at the National Park you visited. Create a display with the student work that can be on-show to the public visiting the Park.

